

1 Good evening, everybody.

2 Just for a change I think I'll  
3 start out tonight by doing a little of  
4 what the politicians call "viewing the  
5 **Alarm**". It's about business conditions,  
6 and it's Colonel Robbins, a prominent  
7 insurance executive and former Assistant  
8 Secretary of War, who sounds the warning  
9 note.

10 ~~According to the Associated Press,~~  
11 Colonel Robbins thinks there is grave  
12 danger that business conditions will  
13 improve too much and too quick.

14 <sup>now</sup> ~~But~~ don't cheer too loudly, <sup>falls</sup> The  
15 Colonel says we are in immediate peril  
16 of a business boom that will come too big  
17 and too fast.

18 That sounds like another signal  
19 for us to cheer, <sup>doesn't it?</sup> But <sup>you see</sup> the Colonel <sup>sears</sup> ~~thinks~~  
20 that if American business makes too  
21 sensational a recovery, we may forget  
22 the lessons we are supposed to have  
23 learned during the depression, and that  
24 too big a boom might be followed by  
25 another depression.

1 Well, I guess most of us are  
2 brave, stout-hearted folks and the  
3 Colonel can't ~~frighten~~<sup>scare</sup> us by telling us  
4 that things are improving too rapidly.

5 Huh uh - not me!

WASHINGTON

Now for a Washington item. The House of Representatives by a large majority, today decided against the proposal to contribute fifteen million dollars toward buying food for the people who are in need in the sections of the Middlewest that were hit by the drought last year.

President Hoover had asked for forty-five millions to be loaned to the farmers in those parts so they could buy seed and implements for next year's harvest. Then the Senate voted to add fifteen million dollars to buy food for those farmers. The President was against the idea of the federal government giving money for food, and now the House of Representatives has come forth and supported Mr. Hoover.

According to the International News Service the vote was 215 to 143.

Meanwhile the President has issued a call for Red Cross aid to be given to those same people who would have benefited by the fifteen million dollar appropriation if it had gone

1 through.

2           The Associated Press states that  
3 the President today asked for a  
4 minimum of ten million dollars for the  
5 relief of the drought sufferers who  
6 are in immediate need.

7           In other words, the President's  
8 idea is not to have the government *give food*  
9 ~~directly come to the aid of sufferers~~  
10 but to have this done by <sup>the public</sup> ~~private aid,~~  
11 ~~charity~~ through the agency of  
12 the Red Cross.

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## IMMIGRATION

Some interesting facts have been brought to light by the Department of Immigration at Washington. They show that recently fewer immigrants than ever have been coming into the country.

For example, the total for last November was only about half the total for November, 1929. Most of our recent immigrants have been Italians, and next were the Germans. The biggest decrease in immigration during the past year has been among people from Great Britain. British immigration to this country has shown a drop of 76%. Now that's interesting.

We used to get more men than women. But now most of our immigrants are women. Three-fourths of them, according to an article in the New York Sun, come to this country to join relatives.

1 I wish I could stop here and give  
2 you an imitation of a peal of loud  
3 laughter, <sup>that</sup> I heard over the telephone this  
4 afternoon. It was my old friend, Count  
5 von Luckner, the Sea Devil. Well, I  
6 scarcely expected to hear the Count  
7 laughing so hale and hearty, although of  
8 course he is the laughing kind. He has  
9 just come to town after a bad automobile  
10 accident out in the Middle West, <sup>where he</sup> ~~he~~ had  
11 <sup>his</sup> a shoulder broken in several places.  
12 He ~~is~~ still <sup>has</sup> got it in a heavy plaster cast,  
13 and in fact ~~he~~ <sup>the Count</sup> wouldn't be in New York  
14 at all if the President of the Pennsylvania  
15 Railroad hadn't <sup>the Count</sup> given ~~him~~ his private car  
16 to ~~be~~ used as a <sup>sort of hospital ward on wheels.</sup> ~~railroad ambulance for~~  
17 ~~the Count~~

18 Anyway, the Sea Devil was there on  
19 the phone, laughing, and it all simmered  
20 down to the fact that he was picking my  
21 News Item of the Day for me.

22 "There's nothing in this world,"  
23 he roared, "like charity and a big heart.  
24 By Joe! There's nothing so wonderful as  
25 a feeling for your <sup>shipmates.</sup> ~~fellow~~ man."

1 And then he referred me to an  
2 Associated Press dispatch. ~~which is in the~~  
3 ~~evening papers today~~ Here's the story,  
4 and ~~I've got~~ <sup>I really ought</sup> to begin it with a few choice  
5 and ~~improving~~ <sup>edifying</sup> reflections:--

6 Works of mercy are a noble thing,  
7 and there's nothing so inspiring as people  
8 who are engaged in a rivalry of doing  
9 good deeds.

10 <sup>well,</sup> Down in Mexico City they have two  
11 organizations of mercy, the Red Cross and  
12 a similar institution called the White  
13 Cross. Each has an ambulance which goes  
14 out and rescues the sick and the injured.  
15 And there's a noble rivalry of doing  
16 good deeds between those two ambulances <sup>companies.</sup>  
17 In fact, that rivalry is so intense that  
18 each ambulance is determined to outdo  
19 the other on every occasion.

20 If anyone is hurt, both of those  
21 ambulances go after him. They race with  
22 each other. At times they collide--some-  
23 times with each other, sometimes with other  
24 vehicles, and sometimes with lamp posts,  
25 buildings, <sup>and sometimes with pedestrians.</sup> or trees. The spirit of

charity is so strong between those two ambulance outfits that they injure more people than they help, so the dispatch says.

They started out to pick up a man who had a few minor scratches, and on the dash to the scene one ambulance didn't get out of the way of the other and they had a collision. Three doctors who were riding inside were injured and had to have medical attention.

On another occasion the two ambulances were going to a fire where some people had been injured. They arrived at the same time, and the ambulance drivers were so eager to do a good deed that they had a fight. They beat each other up so badly they had to be taken to the hospital in their own ambulances.

This generous and chivalrous rivalry has become so touching that the police have had to interfere. The cops of Mexico City have ordered those ambulance men to stop being ~~so~~ so full of noble zeal and to stop injuring themselves and other people in their enthusiasm.

As the jolly old Sea Devil put it: "By Joe, those ambulance shipmates had better watch their navigation from now on."



DIGEST - FOG

I know you'll think I'm going to tell you an old story now. It is an old story, but there are some new things about it. Remember that mystery fog in Belgium -- that blinding, terrifying mist that swept down the Meuse Valley and killed almost a hundred people?

It dropped out of the papers after a few sensational days, but meanwhile the scientists have been trying to find out the secret of that fog. And they put together some interesting facts.

Well, where would you expect to find those facts? Why of course in the Literary Digest. Yes, an article in this week's Digest prints some exceedingly interesting information that has been provided by the United States Weather Bureau.

The first point is that the Belgian mystery fog is by no means the first on record. They've had dense clouds of deadly mist in the Meuse Valley before. In 1897 they had a fog very much like that recent one. And it affected people with what physicians called "fog asthma". And then they had similar fogs in 1902 and 1911.

Also, in 1901 they had a fog in England that caused an

epidemic and illness and death.

But there's one fact brought out in that Digest article which is the strangest of all and provokes my curiosity the most. It's about the pogonip. What is a pogonip? It's a peculiar kind of fog common in certain valleys of the Rocky Mountains, and is said to have deadly effect on all who breathe it. It has long been a weird mystery, a strange legend. People have told about it, but a lot of folks didn't believe them -- the scientists, for instance. They thought that fantastic, deadly fog called the pogonip must be just another of those tall tales ~~by~~ told by prospectors. They never investigated the stories. But now, after the world wide sensation made by the mystery fog in Belgium, a good deal more attention is being paid to the mysterious pogonip of the valleys of the Rockies.

1 That cheery and harmonious news  
2 about India, which I mentioned last  
3 night, seems <sup>just a shade less</sup> ~~not quite so~~ cheery and  
4 ~~harmonious~~ this evening.

5 The British government is offering  
6 a kind of Dominion status to India which  
7 would put India practically on the same  
8 footing as Canada and Australia and the  
9 other British dominions.

10 And now, according to the Associated  
11 Press, crops up the old and troublesome  
12 problem of the Mohammedans in India.  
13 They're a powerful minority and they're  
14 always having trouble with the Hindus.

15 <sup>There are 200,000,000 Hindus and 80,000,000 Mohammedans.</sup>  
And it is the Indian Mohammedans who  
16 object to the Dominion status offered  
17 by the British government. Their  
18 spokesman at the Round Table Conference  
19 states that they will not accept it  
20 <sup>until</sup> ~~before~~ the Hindus and the Moslems get  
21 <sup>until</sup> together and <sup>who are in the minority,</sup> the Moslems <sup>,</sup> are guaranteed  
22 their rights.

SHAW

In these nightly rambles along the trail of the news I have never gone in for movie criticism, but here's the opening of a big talkie picture that deserves a line.

It's called "How he lied to her husband", and it was written by George Bernard Shaw. It was Shaw's first try at writing talking pictures, in fact the first time he'd had anything to do with the movies at all. It opened in London last night and the Associated Press informs us that it was just another flop. The critics gave it an awful razzing. They said it was melancholy, dull, stagey, disappointing, tedious and lifeless. And that's plenty for even critics to say.

Well, I suppose that Shaw talkie will be put on over in this country pretty soon, and I for one am going to take a look at it just to see if anything by George Bernard Shaw can be as bad as all that.

## CAMELS

The United Press carries a picturesque story from Africa, a story in which appear romantic names like Zanzibar, Senegal, and the Ivory Coast, Dahomey, and Timbuctoo.

The dispatch tells us that camels in Africa will have to hunt for another job. Why? Because automobiles are taking the place of camels. Last year the U.S.A. exported eleven million dollars worth of cars to Africa. So it looks as though Detroit had the poor camel on the run.

The same thing is happening in Mongolia, Turkistan, the Sind Desert of India, and in Arabia.

During the World War, Colonel Lawrence introduced the first automobiles that his army of Arabs had ever seen; sometimes Lawrence drove around in a motor truck. On one such occasion he was accompanied by a picturesque Arab chief named Motlog Ibn Jemiaan.

Motlog sat on top of a lot of sacks in back as the truck went careening wildly across the desert. In rounding a turn poor Motlog was thrown off into the sand right on his ear. Lawrence stopped the car and ran back to apologize. But before he could do so the old sheik ruefully shook his head and said:

"Please don't be angry with me. I may know how to ride the camel that Allah gave to the Bedouin, but I haven't learned to ride this strange camel that runs on wheels and roars like the thunders of the Prophet.

1 From over in the black <sup>African</sup> republic of  
2 Liberia comes a voice saying--yes, you're  
3 right. We'll do it, slavery is a bad  
4 thing.

5 They have slavery in Liberia, and  
6 the League of Nations, which is out to  
7 suppress <sup>the traffic in human beings</sup> ~~slavery~~, told the Liberian  
8 government that it ought to do something <sup>about it,</sup>  
9 and went on to outline a few things  
10 which could be done to <sup>stamp out</sup> ~~suppress~~ human  
11 bondage in the black republic.

12 And now, the Associated Press  
13 informs us, the Liberian government has  
14 notified the League of Nations that it  
15 accepts in principle the recommendations  
16 made by the League.

1 From far off Japan comes a  
2 touching story <sup>with</sup> ~~of~~ a happy ending.

3 Mizue Hiasa, says the Associated  
4 Press, walked two hundred miles with  
5 his four year old son on his back. He  
6 walked all the way to Tokyo looking for *work.*  
7 ~~a job.~~ A newspaper published his  
8 picture and his brother's employer gave  
9 him a job.

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1 *During* The ~~last~~ <sup>some</sup> few weeks I've been passing  
 2 on to you <sup>some</sup> dog stories, and cat stories,  
 3 and mosquito stories, and in fact all  
 4 sorts of stories which radio listeners  
 5 have sent in. ~~to me.~~ Some were just plain  
 6 "whoppers" and some, although marvelous,  
 7 were true. Any way, it's about time to  
 8 have a fish story. So here ~~goes:~~ <sup>goes:-</sup> ~~one:~~

9 It's from Millwee Owens, Managing  
 10 Editor of the Augusta (Ga.) Herald. ~~Mr.~~  
 11 ~~Owens writes:~~

12 "My father-in-law, ~~B. O. Reeves~~ <sup>writes Mr. Owens.</sup> is  
 13 a confirmed fisherman," <sup>^</sup> "Some months ago  
 14 he was fishing for trout in a stream  
 15 near Augusta. Tired of casting and  
 16 thirsty, he knelt down on a rock at a  
 17 sand bar and proceeded to drink from the  
 18 creek. A big trout ~~that~~ had refused to  
 19 strike his bait saw the tip of his nose  
 20 in the shallow water, and thinking it a  
 21 fine morsel, flung the full strength of  
 22 its 8 or 10 <sup>my unlucky father-in-law's</sup> pounds at ~~the~~ <sup>^</sup> proboscis.

23 "The contact between fish and bone  
 24 threw the trout into the air and it fell  
 25 square upon the back of ~~Mr. Reeves'~~ <sup>his</sup> head,

LETTERS - FISH STORY - 2

ducking his face clear into the water. He fell back on the sand dazed and with a mighty sore nose. The trout flopped about in the shallow water, apparently stunned too, and then ~~swam~~ swam away."

Editor Owens ends by saying that this fish story no doubt sounds like a "whopper", but that his father-in-law is ready to make an affidavit that it's true, every word of it. So there you are.

Right here I want to rise to enter a nomination. Here's my candidate for the prize that ought to be given to the crimeless city. It's the town Barrow, way up there on the edge of the Arctic Sea, on the northern coast of Alaska. ~~In fact, Barrow nominates itself~~

According to the United Press <sup>Barrow</sup> ~~it~~ claims it hasn't had a crime in twenty-five years. The population consists of 300 Eskimos and one white man, a trader, a famous northern character who has lived there since 1880.

The Eskimos of that locality are mild and peaceful and they don't commit crimes. And so, if any of you are looking for a crimeless town you'll find it up there on the shores of the Arctic Ocean where the eerie Northern Lights dance and flash across the Polar Sky.

well, Point Barrow is ~~at~~ the last stop north on the mainland of North America. When you mush <sup>toward the Pole</sup> ~~north~~ with

1 your dog team and when you get to Point  
2 Barrow you come to the end of continental  
3 North America. ~~the jumping off place.~~

4 Point Barrow also marks the end  
5 of this evening's journey along the  
6 trail of the news, ~~my evening's jumping~~  
7 ~~off place,~~ until we all rally round  
8 again in the old igloo for our next  
9 session. In the meantime look out for *that*  
10 a polar bear, and Solong until  
11 tomorrow.

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